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Bangalore Mirror

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Digital signages cannot be used for commercial purposes as per 2018 bylaws, clarifies BBMP after PIL in High Court

DIGITAL DISTRACTION

Court directs BBMP, city police, KSPCB to enforce rules

| Melvin Mathew
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

After a public interest litigation at the High Court regarding digital signages, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike clarified digital signages are only permitted for personal advertising.

Resident welfare associations have complained that digital signages have started sprouting in different parts of Bengaluru.

Residents alleged the digital signages have turned into causes of distraction for traffic. The PIL was submitted at the High Court regarding the hazards of these digital signages.

The court asked the BBMP, Bengaluru city police and Karnataka State Pollution Control Board to enforce the rules and regulations on the LED board advertisements and prevent their installation on roadsides. The Bengaluru Residents' Welfare Association

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

ELENI AFIONTSI/UNSPLASH

FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSE ONLY

"We have not issued licences for digital signages... — BBMP official

Timeline check

Corridor finally completed after a decade

PAGE 4

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3 THINGS TO DO

01 Sita's tale

As part of the Karnataka Kalotsav, ArtMantram is presenting 'Sita', a monodrama in Hindi by Anchana Chandak. There are innumerable expressions of Sita and countless interpretations but all of them mostly create the image as faith and obedience personified. Sita was the first metaphor of female empowerment... for standing up and possessing virtues and values that are sacred for the cause of self. Let's hear this Sita narrating her feelings as talented artist Anjana Chandak performs the 4th episode of her monodrama series on the panchakanyas.
Where: Level 6, Above Church Street SOCIAL
When: Monday, February 19; 6 pm; Free Entry

02 Poetry appreciation

Rochelle, an acclaimed performance poet from Goa, brings an unique poetry appreciation and writing workshop to Bangalore. Through this workshop, participants will understand the components of a poem, examine different poems and styles of writing, learn how to critique and appreciate a poem, and use writing exercises and poetic devices to create a poem. Limited spots only. **Where: Atta Galatta, 178, 5th Main Rd, Binnamangala; When: February 18. 11 am–12.30 pm**

03 Get jazzy

Internationally acclaimed contemporary jazz fusion band, MOCA, is all set to mesmerise audiences. Hailing from Cyprus, Marios Menelaou on bass guitar, Odysseas Toumazou on guitar and Christos Yerolatsitis on piano, along with Hungarian drummer Aron Nyiro, form the eclectic ensemble known as MOCA. This quartet brings together a wealth of musical influences, blending contemporary jazz with elements of fusion to create a dynamic and captivating sound. **Where: Windmills**
When: February 16 and 17, 9.30 pm onwards

Sea of pink

ASHA workers gathered at Freedom Park on the second day of their protest on Wednesday, demanding an honorarium and delinking of the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) portal from their pay process

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

Birders of Karnataka unite, with flying colours

State secures fourth position in recording bird species with its 4,088 lists for the Great Backyard Bird Count

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The Streaked Shearwater was among the birds sighted during a deep-sea bird survey conducted in 2023 by the Coastal Karnataka Bird Watchers Network (file photo)

It has emerged at the recently concluded annual event, the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), that Karnataka is a significant hub for bird watchers, by showcasing the state's rich biodiversity. The GBBC, is a collaborative effort of bird enthusiasts, students, and nature lovers, encourages participants to observe and count birds in the surroundings, providing valuable data for scientists and conservationists.

The 2023 edition of GBBC witnessed a remarkable surge in participation across the country, with over 4,259 birders uploading an impressive 53,750 checklists. This collective effort resulted in the recording of 1,072 bird species, constituting 79% of the total known species in India. Compared to GBBC 2022, the event saw a 13% increase in the number of birders and expanded to 2% more districts nationwide.

Among the states, Karnataka secured the fourth position in recording bird species, with enthusiasts contributing over 4,088 lists. The state's bird watchers compiled 4,074 checklists, featuring 561 participants, 908 locations, and an impressive 377 bird species. The GBBC play a crucial role in inspiring society to engage in studying bird populations, distribution, migration patterns, and local statuses. The data contributed by citizen scientists not only enriches our understanding of birds but also aids scientists and conservationists in formulating effective strategies for bird protection.

The Bird Count India, an organisation facilitating citizen science in the country, acts as a vital bridge between birdwatchers and the scientific community. By engaging with bird enthusiasts and collaborating with formal and informal institutions, Bird Count India converts the wealth of collected data into knowledge. This approach positions the organization as an umbrella for a consortium of groups sharing the common vision of documenting the distributional range and abundance of Indian birds.

> **"The impressive participation from Karnataka reflects the state's growing interest in birdwatching and conservation**
> – Mittal Gala, Bird Count India

The overarching goal is to comprehensively document Indian birds' distribution and abundance at varying scales, from within cities to across the country. By collating observations across seasons and years, Bird Count India aims to unravel the intricate seasonal patterns of bird movement and migration, facilitating long-term monitoring of changes in bird distribution and abundance.

Mittal Gala, Project Coordinator - Bird Count India, said, "The impressive participation of bird watchers in Karnataka reflects the state's growing interest in birdwatching and conservation, underscoring the need for continued efforts to preserve and celebrate the diverse avian life of the Indian subcontinent. As people from all walks of life join forces during events like GBBC, they not only have fun birding but also contribute significantly to the understanding and protection of our feathered friends." This year the event will be hosted between February 16 and 19.

Traffic police take note: Ideas to untangle Hoodi Flyover

Daily commuters who use the Hoodi Flyover area face a plethora of challenges, ranging from traffic congestion to safety hazards. The narrow roads, coupled with reckless driving behaviours, have created a recipe for chaos and frustration.

One of the most prominent issues plaguing the area is the rampant movement of two-wheelers in the wrong direction. This reckless behaviour not only disrupts the flow of traffic but also poses significant safety risks to both riders and other road users. The situation reached a tipping point recently, as witnessed by many residents during their morning commute on Tuesday.

"Nobody in the city wants to follow traffic rules. Everyone is in a hurry. While commuting on the Hoodi Flyover, I realised that it has become dangerous to drive. We may have different ideas on how to deal with the issue, but ultimately everything depends on the traffic police. People fear police and they tend to follow lane discipline if they see someone in uniform," a citizen told BM.

Citizens are calling for urgent attention from the authorities regarding the development and widening of the roads under the Hoodi Railway Flyover. The current infrastructure is narrow roads with sharp edges that exacerbate the congestion and increase the chance of accidents.

Citizens have reached out to the Bangalore Traffic Police on social media, urging them to take immediate action. They have specifically requested the deployment of policemen at strategic points along the Hoodi Flyover during peak traffic hours. They say this would curb the menace of wrong-way entry by two-wheelers and autos.

Commuters have highlighted a specific hotspot for wrong-way driving near the Bharat Petroleum petrol bunk on the ITPL Main Road, close to Hoodi junction. Despite there being a U-turn here, two-wheelers continue to flout traffic rules, putting themselves and others at risk.

Mall's not well

Rockline Venkatesh plans to go to court over what he calls illegal sealing of his property

Rockline Mall and one of the shops sealed at the Mall

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Well-known movie producer and owner of Rockline Mall, Rockline Venkatesh on Wednesday threatened legal action against the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) authorities for "illegally" sealing his property situated at T Dasarahalli in Bengaluru West.

"I want to know what made the BBMP officials visit the mall on Tuesday night to issue the notice. The manager of the mall told the BBMP officials to send the notice to me or wait till I come to the mall but they left stating that they can't wait. If they can't wait till I come to the mall, why did they visit the mall at night?'' said Rockline Venkatesh.

Stating that around Rs 2 crore is being paid towards property tax for the mall as per the High Court's direction, Venkatesh said he has already paid the property tax for the year 2023-24 and also intimated the BBMP about it.

"The BBMP officials did not respond to me. They merely visited the mall last night and asked the manager to receive the notice from them. They should have given the notice to me personally or sent it by speed post or registered post. They sealed the mall today (Wednesday) morning,'' said Venkatesh.

He said he directed the employees working at the mall to lodge a complaint with the jurisdictional police station against the BBMP authorities. "I will file a petition in the honourable High Court seeking justice,'' he said.

According to the press release issued by the BBMP, there is a property tax arrears of Rs 11.51 crore and the demand notice has already been issued to the property owner asking him to clear the property tax arrears pending from 2011-2012 to 2022-23.

The BBMP release has also claimed that Rockline Mall was sealed in the presence of Zonal Commissioner Preethi Gehlot, Joint Commissioner Bala Shekhar and revenue officials and BBMP Marshals from Dasarahalli Zone, and police.

Rockline Mall was launched by Home Minister of that time R Ashok. Rockine Venkatesh is known for bankrolling many Kannada movies including the recent box-office hit Katera in which Darshan played the lead. He was a co-producer for Hindi movie Bhajarangi Bhaijan too.

It may be recalled that the BBMP authorities sealed Mantri Mall in December for not clearing property tax arrears over Rs 51 crore. It was also sealed for a few hours in September 2021.

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Slow claps, finishing touches put on Okalipuram Corridor

And it took just 10 years for 8-lane road that will ease traffic woes to see light of day

| Sridhar Vivan
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The Okalipuram corridor project is finally wrapping up. The project stands testimony to Bengaluru's infrastructure projects taking forever to finish. Way back in 2006, officials had this bright idea for an eight-lane road between Okalipuram and Khoday's Circle. But guess what? It took them ages to actually get started. They only got around to it in June 2015, promising to finish by December 2016. And here we are in 2024, finally seeing the light at the end of the tunnel, even though we've been dealing with traffic jams and detours this whole time.

At present, the ground personnel are adding final touches and applying paint to the walls. With the project nearing completion, individuals can now access the railway station from the Rajajinagar side without encountering any traffic signals. Additionally, owing to this initiative, unrestricted access will be granted to Seshadri Road, Okalipuram Road, and Krishna Mills Road.

A spokesperson from BBMP said, "The construction of the underpass beneath the Bengaluru-Tumakuru railway line has been finished. Another underpass beneath the Chennai line is currently under construction, although its completion may be delayed by a few months due to the frequent train movements in the area. The prefabricated box is being installed between 12:30 am and 4:30 am. Apart from this, the majority of the tasks have been successfully concluded."

Officials describe the project, which is being implemented in coordination with the railways, BBMP, BWSSB and Bescom, as the most complicated of civic works in the city. A total of 12,818 sq mt of railways land and 251 sq mt of private land has been acquired for the project. The total project cost has escalated to Rs 226.83 crore from the initial estimate of Rs 115 crore. By the time the project is being completed, the cost has gone up to Rs 337 crore.

KAUSHIK JN

Owing to the Okalipuram corridor project, unrestricted access will be granted to vehicles on Seshadri Road, Okalipuram Road, and Krishna Mills Road, which can ease traffic considerably

> **"The prefabricated box is being installed between 12:30 am and 4:30 am. Apart from this, a majority of the tasks have concluded** – BBMP official

The 6.60-km-long corridor has service roads on either side. A unidirectional underpass (272.92 mt) from Malleswaram to Rajajinagar, along with a flyover (233.72 mt) from Malleswaram to Bengaluru City Railway Station.

There is an eight-lane corridor at ground level (665 mt) from Rajajinagar to Majestic and a unidirectional one-level flyover (222.55 mt) from Rajajinagar to the railway station.

There were challenges on multiple fronts for completion of this project. "One major setback in the construction process was the delay in demolition of the railway employees' quarters near the Bengaluru-Chennai track. The work on the project couldn't proceed until these quarters were removed, which was under the responsibility of the SWR. Another obstacle was the demolition of the electrical office building near the Bengaluru-Tumkur track. For this, However, the SWR required an initial deposit of 20 crore towards the construction of RUBs (Road Under Bridges) at both the Bengaluru-Chennai and Bengaluru-Tumkur tracks before proceeding with the demolition.

Then, the removal of 48 trees from railway land posed a significant challenge. Lastly, an additional Rs 20 crore was needed for the construction of RUBs, with the railways urging the BBMP to deposit this amount. As a gesture of cooperation, the railways agreed to vacate the electrical office building near the Bengaluru-Tumkur track," added an official.

'Digital signages for personal advertising only'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

has written to the BBMP commissioner requesting to take action against the digital signages.

"In the last few months due to plummeting costs or availability of very large LED-based Digital Display Screens, commercial establishments, especially but not limited to Jewellery and Silk Saree chain stores, have installed these all over Bengaluru. The blanket ban on advertising hoardings does not seem to have prevented the use of such displays. The law around LED displays, dimensions and content allowed, the licencing and permits for the same and enforcement needs a proper review and appropriate circulars. Any such amendments required should follow immediately before the explosion of digital displays across the city reaches a scale beyond control," said the letter.

"Of late, we are seeing a lot of these digital signages. Previously, jewellery and saree businesses would advertise their product using LED boards but we are seeing more such boards just for advertising. These signages have moving elements and cause distraction to traffic. They also cause ambient pollution and sometimes have to be erected on the footpath; we are now seeing such signages coming up in residential areas as well. Currently, there are no rules that regulate such signages; there needs to be stricter regulation in this area," said R Rajagopalan of Bengaluru RWA.

Vinod Jacob of Namma Bengaluru Foundation noted that BBMP should licence digital billboards and signages.

"The digital signages are an attention diversion and detrimental for moving traffic; the BBMP should bring it under the purview of a licence; these boards should not harm the environment in any way. Digital sign boards should not be erected by damaging trees; public spaces should not be utilised for this purpose," he added.

The BBMP clarified that digital signages are allowed for personal advertising.

"We have not issued licences for these digital signages. Digital signages are allowed for personal advertising but cannot be used for commercial purposes as per 2018 bylaws. After the High Court PIL, we held a meeting; we will look into the PIL and accordingly we will take action," said a senior BBMP official.

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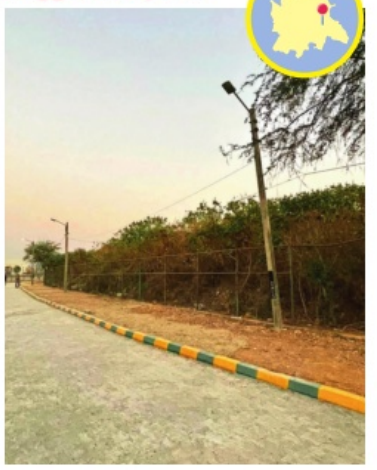
Leaning power
Cubbonpet

Urgent attention required for a streetlight pole that seems to be in a precarious condition at Cubbonpet, parallel to KG Road, opposite Kandhaya Bhavana.

In the dark
Kaggadasapura



A majority of the streetlights on the walking track around Kaggadasapura Lake are non-functional, posing a risk to hundreds of walkers in the evening.

Electric hazard
Akkithimmanahalli

This electricity box on the footpath in front of Akkithimmanahalli Hockey Stadium. Needless to say, this is a safety hazard and must be fixed before any untoward incident occurs.

3 months to get high-security plates

With only just over 9% of vehicles in state adopting high security registration plates, govt pushes deadline further

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So far, only 18 lakh vehicles in the state have adopted HSRP

With only 9.18% of vehicles adopting the High Security Registration Plates (HSRP), the state government had no choice but to extend the last date by another three months from the earlier deadline set to end on February 17. So far only 18 lakh vehicles have obtained HSRP, and many states have already adopted it.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said, "Before April 2019, around 2.45 crore vehicles had been registered, of which approximately 2 crore vehicles are active. Between August 18, 2023, and February 12, 2024, around 18,32,787 vehicles have obtained HSRP. This means only 9.16% of vehicles in the state have acquired HSRP so far."

During the legislative council session on Wednesday, MLC Madhu Madhe Gowda asked what the measures taken by the government were given the fact that there were many fake websites related to HSRP and social media ads. Responding to this, Reddy clarified, "Only original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and distributors can provide HSRP, and no one can come up with tampered boards."

A transport official said that despite an extension given six months ago, implementation has been slow. "In the last week alone, we have witnessed many people adopting it, with approximately 4.5 lakh vehicles obtaining HSRP."

Regarding complaints about login errors, another transport official said a helpline has been established. "Some older vehicles, such as vintage cars, are encountering difficulties in obtaining HSRP. We are addressing this issue, and in the days to come, we will resolve it. For some vehicles, the chassis number was not entered correctly initially, resulting in technical errors. We are working to rectify this, with around 500 such complaints received every day. Once the extended deadline expires, penalties will be imposed as per the Motor Vehicle Act, with the first offense incurring a Rs 500 penalty and subsequent offenses Rs 1,000," said the official.

> **Only original equipment manufacturers and distributors can provide HSRP**
> –Ramalinga Reddy, Transport Minister

The Transport Department has mandated High Security Registration Plates (HSRP) for all vehicles registered prior to April 1, 2019. A transport department official explained that a unified portal, www.siam.in, enables vehicle owners to order HSRPs, select dealer locations for affixation, and choose convenient installation dates and times. Affixing HSRPs is a cashless transaction, with fees payable online. "The State Transport Department has approved the option for affixation at the vehicle owner's residence or workplace. In accordance with the guidelines issued by the Transport Department, no transactions at the RTOs, such as change of ownership, address modification, duplicate RC, insurance updates, fitness approvals, etc., shall be allowed without the affixation of HSRP in the state. "

What is HSRP

HSRP is a security feature that incorporates embossed unique numbers, holograms, and other elements to enhance vehicle identification and recognition security. "HSRP is an aluminum-made number plate fixed onto a vehicle with a minimum of two non-reusable snap-on locks. On the top left corner, there is a blue chromium-based hologram of Ashoka Chakra (20mm x 20mm), a unique laser-branded 10-digit PIN in the bottom left corner, and hot-stamped film applied over the numerals and alphabets, preceded by an 'IND' acronym,. An HSRP is only issued after the vehicle's digital registration..."

Money dispute turns friend into fatal foe

A man residing in RT Nagar was apprehended by the police for the murder of his friend on January 23. The man, identified as Upendra alias Ujala, who hails from Uttar Pradesh is said to have had a tiff with his friend Shravan Sharma over money, police said. Initially reported as an unnatural death, further probe revealed internal injuries as the cause of Sharma's death.

Sharma, who had recently arrived in Bengaluru for work, was discovered dead at his rented residence in RT Nagar. His brother, Karan Sharma, lodged an Unnatural Death Report (UDR) with the RT Nagar police. After the crime, Upendra fled to his hometown in Uttar Pradesh. However, law enforcement successfully tracked him down. —BMB

'Start Banashankari skywalk work'

BJP MP for Bengaluru South Tejasvi Surya has written to Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivkumar, requesting him to sanction funds and begin work on the Banashankari skywalk project.

The MP in his letter said that he had recommended that the project be undertaken in August 2022 and subsequently wrote to the Deputy CM last November, requesting for the commencement of the skywalk project as early as possible. "A skywalk connecting the two stations is a long-pending demand of more than 50,000 citizens of my constituency commuting through Banashankari daily," the letter reads. —BMB

Green guide, philosopher and friend

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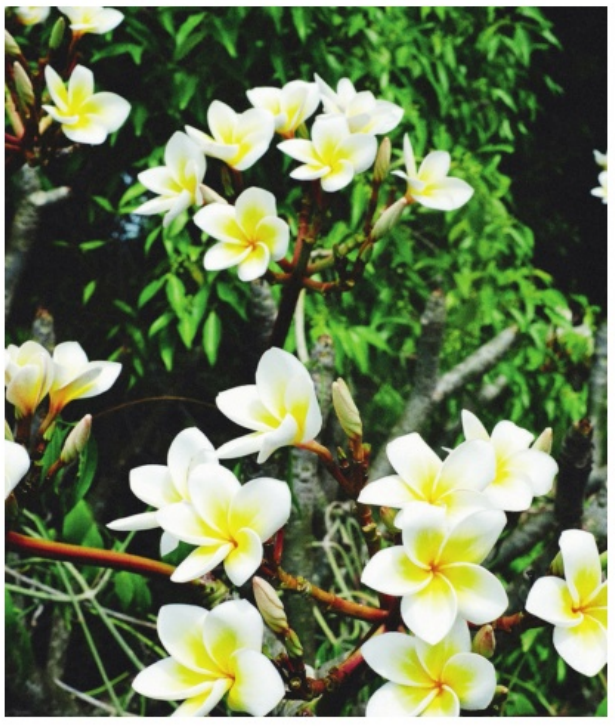

In a bid to encourage citizens to cultivate green spaces within their homes, experts from the Azim Premji Foundation and Project Vruksha Foundation have collaborated to create an insightful tree planting guide. Authored by eminent personalities such as Sahana Subramanian, Seema Mundoli, Harini Nagendra from Azim Premji University, and Vijay Nishanth from Project Vruksha Foundation, the guide aims to simplify the process of planting and nurturing trees in houses and apartments.

Vijay Nishanth, a key contributor to the guide, emphasised on its accessibility and user-friendly approach, stating, "This guide is aimed at addressing some of these concerns. We have included 26 species of trees that can be grown in independent houses or apartment complexes in Bengaluru. Our objective is to provide information needed by a lay person interested in greening their homes or apartments."

Nishanth highlighted the inclusion of interesting facts about each species, making the guide engaging and educational. Moreover, the authors address concerns about nurturing trees and offer guidance on caring for wounded, infected, or diseased trees. While promoting organic treatments whenever possible, the guide also acknowledges situations where chemical applications may be necessary for more severe issues.

A notable aspect of the guide is its focus on alleviating common fears that discourage people from planting trees, such as potential damage to infrastructure. Nishanth reassured readers, saying, "This book has information on how you can work around this issue by using a root barrier."

Among the diverse species featured in the guide are Avocado, Chikoo, Coral Jasmine, Crape Jasmine, Curry Leaf, Custard Apple, Drumstick, Frangipani, Guava, and Henna. The comprehensive selection caters to varying preferences and conditions, ensuring that residents can find suitable trees for their homes.

The guide goes beyond tree planting instructions by providing insights into assessing the health of trees and addressing wounds and diseases in specific species. It acts as a valuable resource for Bengaluru residents keen on contributing to the health and well-being of their surroundings.

To access the guide, interested individuals can read the book online at https://azimpremjiuniversity.edu.in/publications/2024/booklet/tree-planting-guide-sep-2023.

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V-Day... It's a wrap, but sadly not the green kind

BBMP cracks down on use of banned plastic items for bouquets; 959 shops booked

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Solid Waste Management Department of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) booked 959 flower and gift shops in the city for wrapping Valentine's Day bouquets and gift items in banned plastic or Nonwoven polypropylene (NWPP) material over Tuesday and Wednesday. The cases generated Rs 2.5 lakh in fines.

According to officials from the SWM department, a majority of these cases and fines have been collected from the Bengaluru South and East zones.

"We had 270 cases from Bengaluru South and 235 cases of usage of banned plastic items for V-Day gifts were from Bengaluru East zone. As far as flower waste is concerned, we had nearly three tonnes of waste from the KR Market area, one tonne was generated from Russel Market, 1.5 tonnes in Madiwala market area, and roughly two tonnes was collected from Yeshwantpur market area. A considerable amount has also been collected from Malleshwaram. The waste is being cleared and disposed of with the help of various NGOs," said a BBMP official.

Volunteers and organisations working towards a plastic-free city expressed concerns about bouquets being sold with plastic sheets, colourful NWPP, or shiny foil sheets on them. They opine that florists use banned items freely in the absence of strict enforcement of rules.

Many florists continue to use plastic to wrap bouquets

"The worrying part is that bouquets everywhere have default plastic sheets, NWPP, or shiny foil sheets. Most are not aware that these are banned as florists use them freely. BBMP should make use of informative posters on the subject and spread awareness about banned and harmful items that are still being used to wrap bouquets," said Odette Katrak, co-founder, Beautiful Bharat, a citizen volunteer group.

Experts say while BBMP has cracked down on shops and florists using banned items, it should be a continuous effort.

"For change on the ground, what is needed is a combination of awareness and enforcement. While BBMP has responded to our request this V-Day with enforcement underway, this should happen regularly instead of being a one-off measure. We are leveraging the florists' network with the help of a series of bouquet tags that we're launching on Wednesday, with disposal instructions on the reverse of the 'To... From...' tag that is pasted on bouquets," added Katrak.

> **Most are not aware that these are banned as florists use them freely. BBMP should make use of informative posters and spread awareness**
>
> –Odette Katrak, Beautiful Bharat

Green Bouquets

While bouquets without plastic wrappers sound impossible, a handful of florists in the city are blazing the trail. One such florist is Ibbani Flowers located in Bellandur.

Bouquets at Ibbani have reusable cloth ribbons and are wrapped in gift paper, newspaper, crepe, jute wraps, and glass bowls. The store also encourages customers to bring their containers with a 10% discount scheme.

"We have been selling eco-friendly bouquets for the last eight years. Although there was some hesitation among customers during the initial days, they soon began appreciating our initiative. While going eco-friendly increases the cost of these bouquets by nearly Rs 50 or so, customers are willing to pay the extra amount. This is because the wrappers are not just eco-friendly but also look attractive and unique," said Shanteri Shanbhag, Ibbani Flowers.

CM's office steps in; tree issue fixed

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MIRROR

Tree branches at Hanumanthappa Layout were trimmed, on Wednesday, on the day the complaint appeared in BM

Residents of Sultanpalya, concerned about the hazardous tree branches on 3rd cross, Sultanpalya Hanumanthappa layout, Sania Retreat apartment, reached out to Bangalore Mirror for assistance. Their plea was published on February 14. Upon seeing the plea, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's office promptly responded. The Officer on Special Duty to the Chief Minister for Public Grievances acknowledged the issue and swiftly notified the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) officials to take action. Subsequently, BBMP personnel promptly trimmed the branches, mitigating the potential danger. This collaborative effort between concerned citizens, media, and government officials demonstrates the effectiveness of timely communication and proactive response in addressing community concerns.

Road to progress at Arkavathy Layout

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Here is good news for those who have constructed or are planning to construct their dream homes at Arkavathy Layout as the plan is to ensure basic infrastructure is in place in nine months. The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has floated a tender for improvement of roads at Arkavathy Layout.

With no proper roads and other amenities including street lights, underground drainage, and water supply, those who had built houses at the layout have been facing a lot of problems. Many people who got sites allotted and are planning to commence construction of their homes were compelled to postpone their plans.

Now, the BDA has decided to develop the roads at 12 villages where Arkavathy Layout is. The estimated cost is Rs 97.95 crore. The short term tender notification has made it clear that the development and asphalting of the roads should be completed in nine months, including monsoon, from the date of commencement of the work.

Tender has been floated for improvement of roads at Arkavathy Layout

The blocks where the roads are to be developed and asphalted are 19th block at Bellakere village. The BDA has allocated Rs 10 crore for the development and asphalting roads at 19th block. It has allocated Rs 2 crore for the development of roads at eighth, 10th, and 11th blocks at Srirampura and Dasarahalli. Roads at 11th block to be developed and asphalted at an estimated cost of Rs 4 crore. Fifth, sixth, and 17th blocks at K Narayanapura village got Rs 7 crore. Third and eighth blocks at Venkateshapura were allocated Rs 4.25 crore. First, second, seventh, and eighth blocks at Jakkur village got Rs 16 crore. Second and third blocks at Sampigehalli got Rs 19.50 crore while 18th block at Byrathikhane is allocated Rs 8.10 crore and 20th block at Hennur village is allocated Rs 5 crore. The BDA has allocated Rs 5 crore for 16th and17th block at Geddalahalli and Rs 17.10 crore for fourth, fifth, sixth, 14th, 15th, and 20th blocks at Thanisandra.

The last date for submission of tender forms is February 19.

Welcoming the BDA's decision, KV Ramesh, a site owner, said development of roads would be a great help for those who have constructed houses here already. "The BDA must expedite completion of the developmental works," said Ramesh.

Aravindan Jayaram, who resides at Arkavathy Layout near Thanisandra, said other developmental works including UGD and street lights are in progress.

Driverless metro train arrives

The city's first driverless metro train set comprising six coaches reached the Hebbagodi depot in Electronic City early in the morning on Wednesday from Chennai. The train was shipped from Shanghai to Chennai 20 days ago. The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has noted that the coaches were transported to Bengaluru by road in four trailer vehicles from Chennai port, reaching at 3.30 am.

The prototype train comprising six coaches has been manufactured by the China-based CRRC Nanjing Puzhen Co Ltd. In 2019, the Chinese firm won a Rs 1,578 crore contract to supply 216 coaches to BMRCL. Coaches that are yet to be supplied will be manufactured with the firm's domestic partners Titagarh Rail Systems Ltd as part of the Make In India initiative.

BMRCL officials have said that out of the 216 coaches, 90 coaches are going to be deployed on Reach 5 while the remaining coaches will be divided between Reach 1 (Purple and Green lines). The driverless trains are being implemented as part of the communication-based train control (CBTC) signalling system. **–BMB**

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—England Test captain Ben Stokes

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High dive
A swimmer dives during warm-ups ahead of the final of the women's high diving round 3 & 4 during the 2024 World Aquatics Championships at Doha Port in Doha on Wednesday

Bengaluru Open: Ramkumar shocks top seed Luka

Wildcard entrant prevails over Italian in little over two hours at KSLTA Stadium

#BENGALURU

Indian Davis Cupper Ramkumar Ramanathan made a remarkable comeback to shock top seeded Luka Nardi to enter the singles quarterfinals of the Bengaluru Open here on Wednesday.

Ramkumar, a wildcard entrant, prevailed over the Italian 1-6, 6-4, 6-4 in little over two hours in their pre-quarterfinal match at the KSLTA Stadium.

The match began on an ominous note for the Indian star as Nardi broke his serve in the very first game of the opening set.

From that point onwards, Ramkumar was not able to offer any kind of fight to his higher-ranked opponent, who used a heavy first serve and precise ground shots to choke his opponent.

While Nardi landed a whopping 86 percent of his first serve inside the box, Ramanathan barely managed to cross the 50 percent mark.

But Ramkumar seemed a totally transformed player in the second set as he engaged Nardi more effectively in rallies, exploring the deeper areas of the court to keep the Italian pinned on the baseline.

After the first four games went by the serve, Ramkumar earned a crucial break in the fifth game to go 3-2 up and he consolidated the position with a hold to make it 4-2.

Ramkumar Ramanathan reacts during his match against Luka Nardi, on Wednesday

The salient feature of Ramkumar's transformed game was the improvement in his first and second services, as he found more zip in them in this set.

Nardi struggled to return Ramkumar's serves that often breached the 200 kmph barrier.

It was evident in the 10th game when Ramkumar served out the second set, as two big serves down the T helped the Indian go level at a set apiece.

Frustration gradually seemed to have crept into Nardi's game as he began to make unforced errors regularly. After matching Ramkumar till the fourth game, Nardi crumbled against sustained pressure in the fifth game.

Trailing 30-40, Nardi slammed an overhead smash well over the baseline to hand Ramkumar a vital break as he went up 3-2.

Ramkumar firmed up his position with a hold in the sixth game and he had the simple job of retaining his serve in the 10th game to pocket the match.

He began it with a thundering ace down the middle, his ninth of the match, and moments later a lovely forehand approach volley positioned him at 40-0.

Ramkumar kept Nardi in the baseline with a deep forehand and the latter smashed a forehand wide of the sideline as the Indian let out a loud roar.

However, it was curtains for fourth seeded Frenchman Benjamin Bonzi who lost 3-6, 4-6 to Maks Kasnikowski of Poland.

Results (Singles): Ramkumar Ramanathan beat 1-Luka Nardi 1-6, 6-4, 6-4, Roca Batalla beat Tristan Boyer 7-5, 6-3, Maks Kasnikowski beat 4-Benjamin Bonzi 6-3, 6-4. **-PTI**

Jockeys XI emerge champs

The Jockeys maintained their winning streak in the Bangalore Turf Club T10 cricket tournament. The Jockeys XI in the final defeated the Trainers and owners side by a comfortable margin of 11 runs after luckily edging out the plucky Club Members team led by Nikhil Yathiraj, who lost a match which they should have easily won simply because they choked at a crucial time and let the opportunity slip out.

While admitting that they lost a contest which they should have won, Nikhil who picked up four early wickets in the game disclosed that a couple of bad shots and the run out of Sameer Gurjar who was looking in good nick turned the game on its head. "It happens. When your eager and looking to close out the game quickly, you sometimes end up making mistakes which cost you dear at end and this is what happened, " said a disappointed Nikhil. .

Cine actress Sharmila Mandre presents the BTC T10 winning Trophy to Trevor Patel, skipper of Jockeys XI

In the final the Jockeys, who enjoyed the `big escape to victory' adopted a more sensible approach and led by the two openers Chetan Kalay and M Naveen notched up a match-winning score of 79. The Trainers and owners started the chase on a promising note, but after the loss of man of the tournament Vinod Reddy could never maintain the required run-rate and ended up 11 runs short. The winners took home a rich purse of Rs, 50,000, while the runner-up gained a cash award of Rs,30,000.

Lauding the effort of all racing professionals in a different avatar, the managing committee of the club disclosed that they will continue to host the big bash taking into account that the tournament generates good interest and excitement among the racing pros readily parading their skills in a different sport. — **Ikram Khan**

Brief scores: Jockeys XI: 79/5 (Chetan Kalay 20, M Naveen 18 (Naveen Kumar 3/10) bt Trainers & Owners: 67/6.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, ARJUNA.K.C R/o Kappalamadagu village and post,Mulbagal Taluk,Kolar 563131 have changed my name to Arjun.K.C for all purposes.

I, Chand Pasha, R/at No.45, 11th E Cross, Padarayanapura, Bengaluru-560026 have changed my minor son name from Mohammed Abeedin to Mohammed Abideen, affidavit dt: 12.02.2024, Notary R Basavaraja, B.lore.

I ADITYA HEMANTH RAO S/o K, Hemanth Rao R/at-401, S S Mansion, Richmond Town Bangalore 560025 have changed name to ADITYA RAO vide affidavit dated 14/02/2024 in front of Notray S.Subashini Bangalore.

I, Mohamed Madeeha Thaseeb, R/at No.10, 2nd Cross, Kempaiah Block, Near Mubarak Mosque, J.C Nagar, Bangalore-560006 have changed my name to Madeeha Thaseeb, affidavit dt: 12.02.2024, Notary R Basavaraja, B.lore.

I, Prameela W/o Chandrappa Honnalera, residing at #30,31, Gowramma Singappa Nilaya, 2nd Cross, Beside Muneshwara Samudaya Bhavana, Sriram pura, Jakkur Post, Bengaluru-560064 have changed my name to Prameela Kariyalli Gavisiddappa, vide affidavit dated: 08.02.2024 sworn before notary Devaraja E, B.lore.

I, Shruthi W/o Kushal Shiva Kumar, residing at #30,31, Gowramma Singappa Nilaya, 2nd Cross, Beside Muneshwara Samudaya Bhavana, Sriram pura, Jakkur Post, Bengaluru-560064 have changed my name to Shruthi Honnalera Chandrappa, vide affidavit dated: 08.02.2024 sworn before notary Devaraja E, B.lore.

WE, Nikhil Jain S/o Ashok Kumar Jain and Nayanshri Jain W/o Nikhil Jain R/o Flat 408, Indwin Galaxy, Parapanna Agrahara, Harlur road, Kudlu, Bangalore 560068 we hereby declare that our son's name change from Arjun Bajaj to Nirved Jain sworn before notary B.M, Chandrashekar dated 5.2.2024

JOHN Dsauza Pilikundalu 65 Yrs [old Name] S/o Lawrence Dsauza No 90 13A Cross Gangamma Layout BSK 1st Stage Bengaluru 560050, Changed My Name John Dsouza S/o Lawrence Dsouza No.90 13a Cross Gangamma Layout BSK 1st Stage Bengaluru 560050.

I, G Mukul S/o Gopinath Hariharan R/o 13, Pari Street, Kalakshetra Colony, Besant Nagar, Chennai - 600090, have changed the name of my minor daughter NAVRISHA MUKUL aged 1.5 years and she shall hereafter be known as SRISHTIKA MUKUL

I, Yasmeen W/O Atifullah Kahn # 117 c Block Ambedkar Nagar Blr-45 have changed my name to Yasmeen Shaik for all purposes.

I, AYUB KHAN SARDAR KHAN, R/a#266,17th Cross, B.C.C. HBCS 2nd Stage, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-40. I, have changed my name to, AYUB KHAN, Vide affidavit ,dated 07/02/2024 Sworn before Notary R Basavaraja Bangalore

I, Azher Pasha Mohamed Haneef, R/at No.186/1, 7th Cross, B.M.Layout, Venkatesh puram, Bangalore-560045 have changed my name to Azher Pasha, affidavit dt: 12.02.2024, Notary R Basavaraja, B.lore.

I SHAISTA TAJ W/o Syed Nasir R/o No: 5, 1st Cross, Shamanna Garden Bangalore 560026 have changed my name to SHAHISTA TAJ for all purposes

I, Vasudeva S/o, Vijendra M P R/o No 104, 1st Floor, Sg Vanya Palace. Near V V International School, Kodipala, Kengari have changed my name to Vasudeva M for all purposes.

I, Rizwanulla Khayum S/o Abdul Khayum R/o Flat No 001, Ground floor, 8/3 Prizm Azalea, Harris Rd,Benson town B'lore-560046 have changed my name to Rizwanulla.

I, Muskaan D/o Rizwanulla R/o Flat no 001, Ground Floor, 8/3 Prizm Azalea,Harris road, Benson town, Bangalore-560046 have changed my name to Muskaan Rizwanulla.

I, Mohamed Inamul Hassan S/o Mohammed Essa R/o 60/1 No 11, New Bamboo bazaar Rd Bharathi nagar B'lore- 560051 have changed my name to Mohammed Inamul Hassan.

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HEALTH TIP: Skipping breakfast might compromise the immune system

Studies have linked consumption of fatty fish, dairy, kiwi fruit, tart cherries and other berries with better sleep

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AGE GRACEFULLY

Older people don't get enough nutrients – how to spot it and what to do about it

By 2050, approximately a quarter of the UK population is expected to be over the age of 65. With this in mind, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has put "healthy ageing" on its agenda. This means finding ways to maintain health, wellbeing and functional ability in order to have a good quality of life and enjoy the later years.

Everyone ages at a different rate – but there are some things that can influence how well we age, such as by making changes to the types of activity we do and the foods we eat.

Older adults are generally less physically active than they were when they were younger and because of this, their energy intake requirement may decrease. However, there is a difference between energy requirements and nutrient requirements, and nutrient requirements actually remain the same, if not increase, as we get older.

This means we need to get more nutrients into less energy which can be tricky as older adults often have lower appetites. This is why scientists suggest that it may be necessary to enrich the food of older people to maintain the nutrient intake.

How to spot when someone isn't eating enough?

Several studies have shown that undernutrition affects one in ten older people living independently at home. However, it affects five in ten older people living in nursing homes, and seven in ten older people in hospital.

Being overweight, even obese, does not protect against undernutrition. And when older adults lose weight, they lose muscle, meaning that they are more likely to lose their abilities to do daily tasks.

Weight loss in older adults is a key sign of malnutrition that needs to be addressed – but it can be easily missed, especially when many older adults associate the idea of thinness with good health. But clothing that's too loose or a watch strap that floats on the wrist are all warning signs of undernourishment.

Similarly, if someone you care for has started to say things like, "Oh, I don't want much food today, I'm not hungry", "I'm not hungry, it's natural, I'm getting older", or "I'd rather just have a biscuit to be honest," then these could be warning signs. An effective way to keep on top of this is regular weighing at least once per month which enables a quick response to potential indicators of malnutrition.

Getting more nutrients into less food

If people are eating small amounts of food, it is important to think about how to add more nutrients into it. A very effective technique, "fortification" is commonly done with pre-made products such as breakfast cereals, plant-based milk and bread in the UK.

Fortification (adding foods, ingredients or nutrients into existing foods or meals) is easy to do at home as well and can provide a flexible approach for older adults as it allows them to continue eating the foods that they most enjoy.

For older adults in particular, protein is a very important nutrient, because of muscle loss (sarcopenia) which is a natural part of ageing. This could be slowed down or even reversed by eating enough protein at regular intervals throughout the day. A few ways to increase protein include:

- Adding dairy ingredients such as milk, high-protein yoghurt, Quark (soft cheese), milk powders, eggs and cheese into meals – even into simple foods like mashed potato.
- Nuts are a great source of protein, try adding ground almonds to savoury or sweet meals (beware of nut allergies).
- Soy protein can be a convenient and cost-effective option, either for vegetarians or to further fortify minced-meat meals.
- Look in the sports section of supermarkets to find whey protein powders. These are marketed to gym enthusiasts, but actually whey is one of the best proteins to stimulate muscle growth. This versatile ingredient can be mixed into porridge before cooking or used as a substitute for other powdered ingredients in baking.

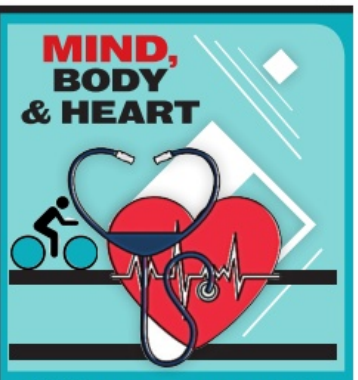
Importance of physical activity and strength exercises

Physical activity and nutrition go hand-in-hand – both are equally important. As we age, being physically active becomes even more essential as it helps to prevent disease, maintains independence, decreases risk of falls, improves cognitive function, mental health and sleep.

Exercise can also combat isolation and loneliness which has also been linked to decreased appetite in older adults. Often strength training gets ignored when we think of being active but to keep independence and prevent falls, older adults should do varied physical activity that emphasises balance and strength training at moderate or greater intensity on three or more days a week.

Ultimately, it's essential to contact a doctor or dietician with any worries or concerns about malnutrition or unintentional weight loss. There are, however, some excellent resources to learn more about ageing healthily and maintaining a good quality of life in later years.

(By Miriam Clegg, University College Cork and Rachel Smith, University of Reading, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Early periods, menopause

COPD risk
The early onset of periods and early menopause can be linked to a heightened risk of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) -- the umbrella term for progressive lung conditions that cause breathing difficulties -- according to a study.

What is early
Those who began menstruating before or at the age of 11 were 17 per cent more likely to develop COPD than those who did so at the age of 13; after the age of 16, the risk was 24 per cent higher, said the team from University of Queensland in Australia.
Menopause before the age of 40 was associated with a 69 per cent higher risk compared with those experiencing it naturally at the age of 50-51, while the risk was 21 per cent lower for those who went through it at or after the age of 54, said the team.

With kids or childless
Further, the study published in the journal Thorax showed that women with children were at higher risk of COPD than childless women. Compared with having two children, more than three was associated with a 34 per cent higher risk, while women with one child were at 18 per cent higher risk.

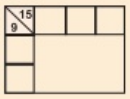
History of miscarriage
A history of miscarriage was associated with a 15% higher risk of COPD, with the risk rising in tandem with the number of miscarriages: 28% higher for two and 36 % higher for three or more. Stillbirth (42% , infertility (13%) were also linked to a heightened risk of COPD, which includes emphysema and chronic bronchitis.

Gender difference
Women also seem to develop severe COPD at younger ages than men. And while smoking is a major risk factor, non-smokers with COPD are more likely to be women, the study noted.

—IANS

Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas



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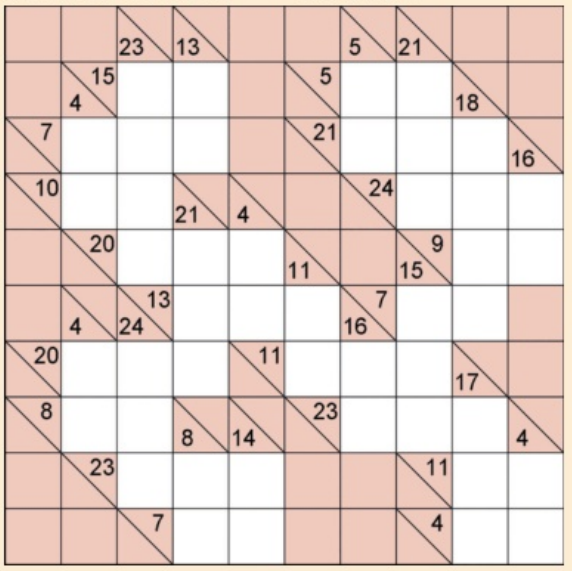
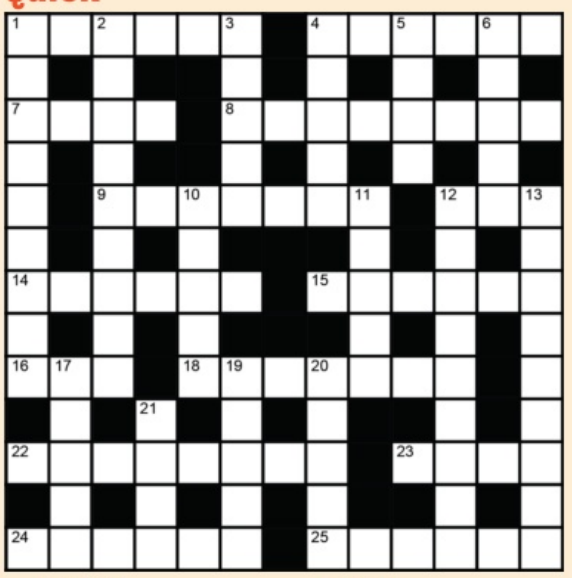


Quick



ACROSS

1 Domesticating or training (6)
4 Gentlemen's gentlemen? (6)
7 Atop or over (4)
8 North Eastern state (8)
9 Satan or devil (7)
12 Resistance unit (3)
14 Popular vegetarian Italian restaurant on Krishna Rajendra road (6)
15 Says or pronounces (6)
16 ___ going : departed? (3)
18 Baltic Republic (7)
22 Reels or stumbles (8)
23 Something frail (4)
24 Alternative (6)
25 Serious and dignified (6)

DOWN

1 Will taking this medicine make you speak no lie? (5,4)
2 Have a second job (9)
3 Very clever people (5)
4 Not very clear (5)
5 Calm interval (4)
6 One ___ : that's ten percent? (5)
10 Duplicate or reproduce (5)
11 Squeal or complain about? (3,2)
12 Efficacious; factory worker (9)
13 Deformed or distorted (9)
17 In No. 1 position (2,3)
19 Lustre (5)
20 Deposes (5)
21 Hindu god of fire (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: S EQUALS G

UTN HLIITC YNQZ LIU TIA NY L WLMMAF NIWAQQ ZA VA RDW-WDIS CT HWDBV L WDCCWA ZDBQAWK.

Linemaro

I find it tough to pick my favourite things, except you

Mindchow

When men love women, they give them a little of their lives; women, when they love, give everything

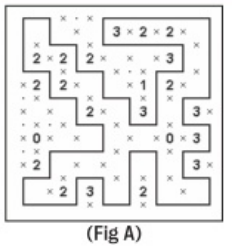
Joke of the day

My wife kisses the dog on the lips, yet she won't drink from my glass

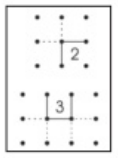
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

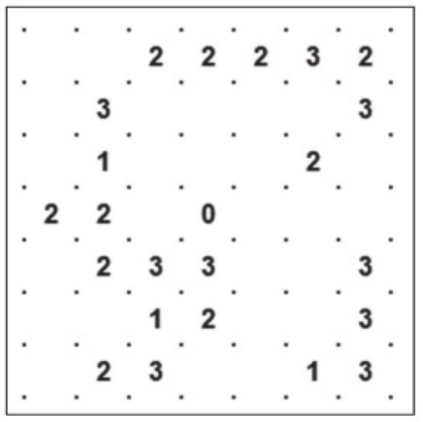


(Fig B) Not Allowed

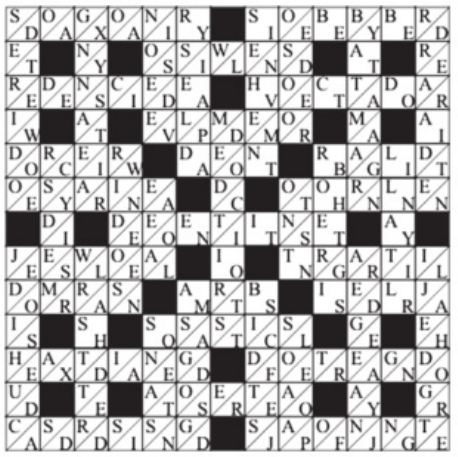
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



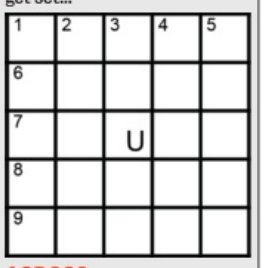
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

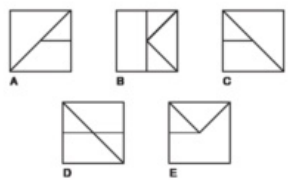
1 Crows; 6 So ere;
7 Euros; 8 In nut;
9 Seams

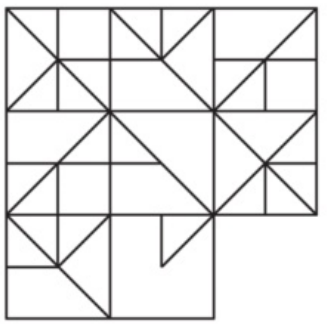
DOWN

1 Muser; 2 Creon;
3 Torus; 4 Oasis;
5 Sewen

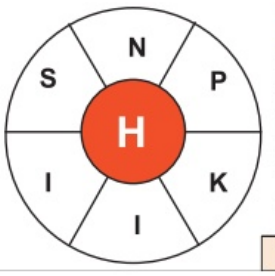
Mensapuzzle

Which is the missing tile?





Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

01 Average; **02** Good; **03** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	4		1					9
6		5						
7	1	8			3	4		
	7			6				
	3	1		9		2	5	
				2			3	
		4	7			9	1	8
						6		3
3					4		2	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 5
3 5 6 9

Medium = 15
3 5 6 7

Hard = 3
3 6 9 6

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

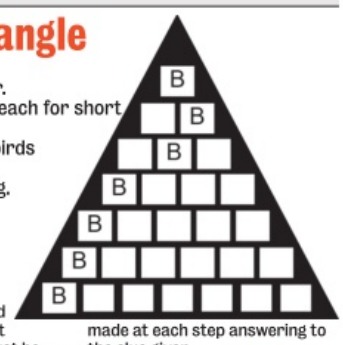
Differences: 1. Toolbox is larger. 2. Pocket is different. 3. Boots are different. 4. Ear flap is missing. 5. Window in door is different. 6. Door handle is different.

Riddler

Which is the odd one out: Lord's, The Oval, Edgbaston?

Alpha triangle

1 Type of vitamin
2 Able-bodied, abbr.
3 Pride of Muscle Beach for short
4 Foundation
5 Noses or bills of birds
6 Stops the car
7 SBI employees, e.g.



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

CHIEF, LOOK!
YEAH. SHAME, ISN'T IT?
THE EAGLE WAS SUCH A FREE AND REGAL BIRD BEFORE HE GOT HOOKED UP WITH THE PALEFACE GOVERNMENT
11-9

Bizarrotrip

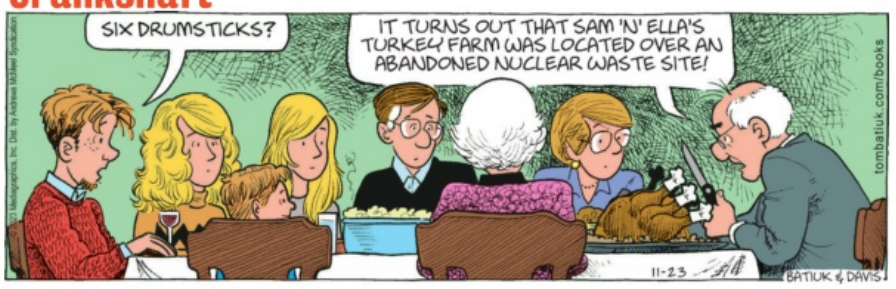
The MRI shows a mass the size of a chicken inside of a duck.
Wayno & Piraro 11-23-23
BIZARRO.COM
©2023 BIZARRO STUDIOS Dist. by King Features

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

THANKS FOR TAKING ME TO WORK WITH YOU.
I HAD A REALLY GOOD DAY, DAD.
LATER
KAT CALLED ME "DAD" FOR THE FIRST TIME TODAY.
WOW, THAT'S HUGE!! HOW DO YOU FEEL?
LIKE I DID SOMETHING RIGHT.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2023 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@OCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft


SIX DRUMSTICKS?
IT TURNS OUT THAT SAM 'N' ELLA'S TURKEY FARM WAS LOCATED OVER AN ABANDONED NUCLEAR WASTE SITE!
tombatiuk.com/books
11-23
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today the positive moon may make you happy. You may use your patience at every stage. Your performance may be good at the job so you may get some incentives in terms of rewards. Health-related issues of family members will be resolved now. Job seekers are likely to get suitable jobs in their domain. Love birds may enjoy a good date.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you may have fixed results. It is advised that you do not expect more from anyone around you as that may leave you disappointed. Today you may have time for self-exploration and self-analysis, which may allow you to understand some things. After this, you may feel confident and will be ready to accept challenges around you.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, dissatisfaction may make you upset. You may not be able to enjoy your day. You may feel a lack of patience, which may affect your way of working. Silly mistakes may happen in your way of working. You may also visit some religious places to seek peace. You are advised to practise meditation or yoga.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you are blessed by the moon and your destiny is likely to be with you. Today you may be more energetic and focused on your work. Your hard work may pay off in terms of success. Your colleagues may help you. You are likely to go for a short work-related trip. Some good news may come from your sibling.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you may be busy with family matters. You may take some important decisions on the domestic front. You should avoid getting into arguments in your personal life. Your arrogance may affect your domestic harmony. By late evening, things may be under control. You are advised to follow your intuition before making investments in the business .

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, messy situations are under control. You may feel peace in the mind. You may be able to make a proper balance in expenditure and earnings, which may increase your financial health. You are advised to avoid too much travelling or overworking as it may affect your health. Students can start planning for their future. Love birds may enjoy happy moments.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may face health issues. Last night's sleeplessness may make you mentally tired. You may not be focused towards your day-to-day work. You may feel laziness, which may affect your commitments. It is advised to avoid rash driving and adventure tours. You are also advised to avoid spending money on worthless items.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you may be busy with a social get-together where you may also meet some old friends. Your network might be strong, which may give you benefits in the near future on the work front. Those engaged in export and import, glamour or artefacts may perform well. Students are likely to perform better today in terms of study. Love birds may enjoy happy moments.

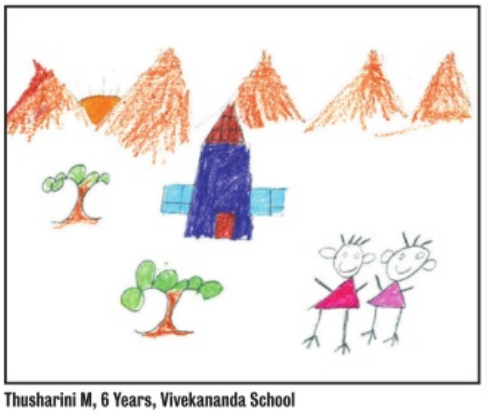
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may have good support from your family members. You may also see some expansion in your family business during these days, which will increase the social status of your family. You may also plan to expand your family in terms of a new child, which may improve bonding between family members. Students may apply for some scholarships for higher studies.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you may feel more spiritual and your destiny may be with you. You may expect good gains in your past investments. Bonding with the boss is likely to be improved, which may give you benefits in terms of promotions. You may also hear some good news from your sibling. You are advised to control your harsh manner of speaking in your personal life as it disturbs the harmony.

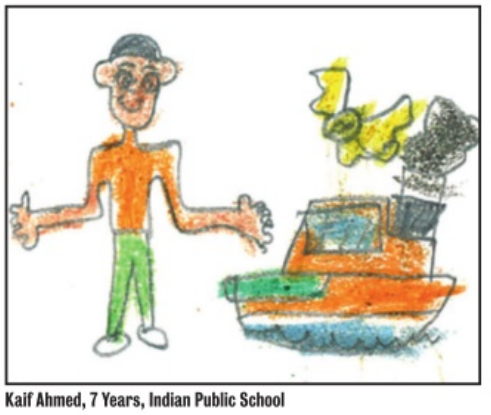
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may be a victim of sleeplessness, which may make you feel lazy. You may also become careless and it may affect your inner strength. You are likely to be nervous at work, which may affect your current project. You are advised to avoid making investments in dead assets. You are advised to avoid spicy food as it might upset your digestive system. You should avoid rash driving.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you may be happy. You may spread happiness around you. You may feel harmony in the domestic life, and may enjoy some romantic moments with your spouse. Your family may support you in taking some important decisions on the professional front. You may expect some new ventures or partnerships in the business or work.

KIDZONE



Thusharini M, 6 Years, Vivekananda School



Kaif Ahmed, 7 Years, Indian Public School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
$(5^{30}\times2^{30})/5^{20}\times2^{21}$
$5^{3}\times2^{5}=125\times16=2000$

BULL'S EYE
KINSHIP, shin, ship

STRIKE OUT

S	A	X	O	N	Y	S	O	B	B	E	P			
T	Y	P	O	I	L	E	D	A	C	E				
R	E	S	I	D	E	V	E	C	T	O	R			
I	T	E	L	E	D	E	R	M	E	A				
D	R	E	W	D	O	N	B	A	I	T				
E	Y	R	I	E	C	T	O	N	N	E				
D	E	N	T	I	N	E	A							
J	E	W	E	L	O	T	R	A	I	L				
O	R	A	N	M	R	S	S	E	R	A				
H	A	T	I	N	G	F	O	R	E	G	O			
S	S	O	A	S	I	S	G	H						
A	D	D	I	N	G	S	P	O	N	G	E			

FAST FIVE

S	C	R	O	W
E	R	O	S	E
U	N	T	I	N
R	O	U	S	E
M	E	S	A	S

QUOTE UNCODE
You cannot push any one up a ladder unless he be willing to climb a little himself.

RIDDLER
Although all are cricket grounds, Edgbaston is the only ground which is not in London.

QUICK

T	A	M	I	N	G		V	A	L	E	T	S		
R	O		E		A		U			E				
U	P	O	N		N	A	G	A	L	A	N	D		
T			I		N		U		L		T			
H		L	U	C	I	F	E	R		O	H	M		
D		I		L		A		P		I				
R	A	G	O	O	S		U	T	T	E	R	S		
U	H		N		O		R				S			
G	O	T		E	S	T	O	N	I	A	H			
N		A		H		U		T			A			
S	T	A	G	G	E	R	S		W	I	S	P		
O		N		E		T		V		E				
O	P	T	I	O	N		S	O	L	E	M	N		

MENSA PUZZLE
C: In each row and column the contents of the third square is determined by the contents of the first two squares. Lines are transferred from these two squares to the third square, except when they appear in the same position in both squares, in which case they are cancelled out.

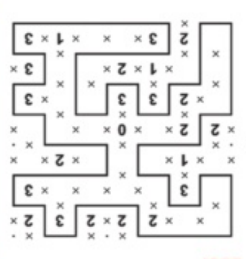
SUDOKU

3	8	9	6	1	4	7	2	5
1	2	7	5	8	9	6	4	3
5	6	4	7	3	2	9	1	8
9	5	6	4	2	1	8	3	7
4	3	1	8	9	7	2	5	6
8	7	2	3	6	5	1	9	4
7	1	8	9	5	3	4	6	2
6	9	5	2	4	8	3	7	1
2	4	3	1	7	6	5	8	9

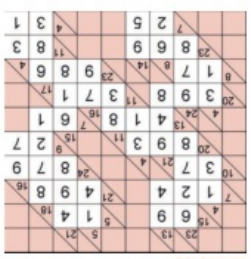
ALPHA TRIANGLE
B, AB, Abs, Base, Beaks, Brakes, Bankers.

GO FIGURE
Easy
$3+5-9+6=5$
Medium
$6+7-3+5=15$
Hard
$6\times3-9-6=3$

LOOP



KAKURO



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Under pressure — Singer-actress Jennifer Lopez spoke about her love journey with Ben, and dished about her new project, studio album, 'This Is Me... Now'. Jennifer said that her relationship with Ben had crumbled "under the weight of the pressure"

IN PRAISE OF BEAUTY

Kangana shares appreciation post for Aishwarya

Aishwarya Rai is undoubtedly one of the most talented and beautiful actresses we have in Bollywood. Whether from within the industry or outside it, there's unanimous admiration for Aishwarya's beauty and elegance, with no hesitation in showering her with praise. Kangana Ranaut recently shared an appreciation post for Aishwarya. The post featured an adorable video compilation of Aishwarya from various movies, showcasing her talent and charm.

She captioned it, 'Appreciation story for Ash's divine beauty.' As soon as she shared the post, likes and comments poured in. While one fan wrote, 'She is absolutely right! There is no one like Aishwarya. She was, is and will always be the most beautiful woman in the world', another one added, 'She has always spoken highly of Ash, I remember her writing a sweet bday wish for her too once.'

Earlier, Kangana had shared a post for Aishwarya where she shared a clip from Ponniyin Selvan I. In a note, Kangana Ranaut expressed her admiration for Aishwarya highlighting a poignant observation. She lamented the tendency of Bollywood lyricists to solely extol the beauty of teenagers, overlooking the strength and allure of women in their forties and fifties. Drawing a metaphor from the moon, Kangana penned a reflection on the timeless grace of mature women.—**ETimes**

Strong thoughts

Bollywood superstar Hrithik Roshan took to Instagram to share a reflective note along with a mirror selfie showing him on crutches. The actor opened up about societal expectations around strength and discussed the need to redefine the concept of true resilience.

The 'Fighter' actor's note read, "How many of you out there ever needed to be on crutches or a wheelchair and how did that make you feel? I remember my grandfather refusing to sit on a wheelchair at the airport because it wouldn't align with his own mental image of himself as "strong".

...There definitely is merit in that kind of conditioning, it's a virtue. It's the mentality of a soldier. But if you say soldiers never need crutches And even when they medically do, they refuse, just to keep the illusion of strength intact, then I just think that the virtue has been stretched so far that it borders on plain stupidity." —**ETimes**

Tradition of love

Shriya Saran and her husband Andrei Koscheev have been capturing hearts with their charming tradition of sharing a kiss at every event they attend together. As Valentine's week unfolds, Shriya has now opened up about this sweet tradition with her husband which began as a spontaneous gesture during an emotional moment.

"In any relationship, you have tough as well as good times. I remember I wasn't well and feeling low, Andrei had come all the way from Thane for a premiere, he was also tired. So, he was there for me and I was there for him, and he just kissed me as I was very nervous. He was sweet enough to make me feel comfortable," Shriya told Hindustan Times.

What initially started as a private exchange between the couple quickly evolved into a delightful spectacle, embraced by those around them. Shriya expressed that everyone started finding it funny and started laughing. Surprisingly, the photographers very sweetly asked them to kiss again. —**ETimes**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Welcome to UK

Upcoming director Vijay is creating a buzz by choosing a unique title for his next movie. The title, UK Love Story may mislead people, but the director says it is about the love story of people in Uttara Karnataka (UK).

"It is my second movie in Kannada. I want to draw audiences to theaters with my new movie's unique title," said Vijay.

It is said the director stayed at Vundekallu in Haveri for six months to know the lifestyle of the people and their diction. "I want to depict the lives of people in Uttara Karnataka as not many Kannada movies were made in Uttara Karnataka," said Vijay.

The muhurat function of the movie was held at a temple recently. Star Ajay Rao sounded the clap board. SG Suresh Arokyaraj, besides playing a role, is bankrolling the movie. "Late actor-cum-director Shankar Nag aka Karate King is an inspiration for me to write the script for this movie," the director said.

Romantic comedy

Director Naveen Kumar is set to make a comeback after a gap of six years with the film Amul Baby. It is Kumar's third movie as a director after Jinkemari and Panipuri. While Jinkemari was released in May 2013, Panipuri was released after a gap of four years.

"Jinkemari got me name and fame but the release of my second movie Panipuri got delayed due to some reasons. Later, I was supposed to work for a movie in which Golden Star Ganesh plays the lead but I missed the opportunity for a one-day delay in attending a meeting with the producer of that movie. Amul Baby is expected to hit the silver screen in two months," said the director. He said veteran actors Narasimha Raju, Charlie Chaplin, and the character of Mr Bean are inspiration for the film's script. "Amul Baby is a romantic comedy. I am sure of its success at the box office. The movie revolves around three young men and a young girl. Their attempts and struggles will tickle audiences' funny bones," the director said. B Narasimha Murthy, an entrepreneur from Magadi, has bankrolled the movie.